

MAIL BUGGY: Alma Mecham and James Loveridge. *Courtesy Amy McEwan Fowers.*

until Civil Service examinations could be held and a new permanent postmaster named. During Mr. Broadhead's tenure in office, a third rural route was established on a temporary basis to serve the ever-increasing population. Six persons were employed at the post office at that time.

# IT HAPPENED IN OREM

A Bicentennial History of Orem, Utah

by

Orem Bicentennial History Committee

Published by Orem City  
Orem, Utah  
1978

R. Raymond Green, M.D.  
45 South Main St.  
Heber, Utah 84302



S. B. Snow mail from Jensen to Vernal

around the hill where it was built that were so steep that they had to dig a trench with shovels for the horse to stand in. They made the first few rounds with a plow and one single horse. They used a side-hill plow made of cast iron. This canal is still used to carry the irrigation water of a good share of the valley. They estimate that it serves approximately 1300 acres. A few years ago the Burns Bench Irrigation Company felt that their rights were being challenged and taken by the Buck Pasture Reservoir Co. A large reservoir was being built in Buck Pasture and it would affect the supply of water that came down through Brush Creek which was the source of the water of the Burns Bench Canal. The Burns Bench Irrigation Co. filed a protest against the application of the Buck Pasture Reservoir Co. Joseph Dudley headed the delegation in making the protest. But finally a settlement was reached and the protest was withdrawn and Buck Pasture Reservoir was built in order to help the farmers on the other side of Ashley Valley to make use of the early high water, which would otherwise have gone to waste. The ditch now known as the Haslem ditch was started by Mr. Burton, one of the first settlers. Water was put in it in 1887.

The Murray ditch was constructed in 1887 and it is still in use. One interesting item is told of Jerry Murray who with the aid of this irrigation water raised broom corn and from this corn made and sold brooms for eight or ten years.

Green River has always been a vast unharnessed resource for water for irrigation. A few small attempts have been made to use it. Very early Jimmie Cain made a water wheel and used it for irrigation on the Johnny Powell place down the river. A man by the name of La Beaux homesteaded up the river on the place known now as the Robert Thorne place. He put in a waterwheel and for a time had a nice little orchard. Then one day he slipped and was caught in the wheel which threw him into the river and he was drowned. His wife and family then left the country.

A family of Merrills started pumping from Green river as early as 1893 and it proved quite successful. Other farmers along the river bank have done pumping, including Joseph and Andrew Dudley, Thornes and others. About four years ago Harry Ratliff broke up seven or eight acres of brush land east of the river and north of the bridge, and irrigates the land with a large pump.

At this writing, a great project is underway to harness the power of Green river. It calls for the diversion of 1,500,000 acre-feet of water annually from the Green river near the mouth of the Yampa river. The water would be brought into the heart of the state by a trans-mountain aqueduct 230 miles long. It is proposed to place under irrigation 600,000 acres of what is now wasteland, and produce cheap and abundant electric power for new industries and create major recreation areas and tourist attractions. If this project goes through it will not only be a big boost for the entire valley, but for Jensen as well.

#### GREEN RIVER NAVIGATION

It is quite probable that the red man was the first who navigated Green River in his canoe, long before white men even knew of its existence. But after the coming of Father Escalante, and the fur trappers, men have found a great fascination in riding the turbulent waters of Green River. A number of such parties have followed the course of the river and usually stopped at Jensen at the bridge. It is always a matter of interest and curiosity for the Jensen people and they turn out in great numbers to welcome these river navigators. On September 14, 1937, Amos Burg, author, lecturer and world traveler, with his company arrived at Jensen after a thrilling journey through the "swirling, plunging clutching water of Hell's Half Mile rapids north of Jensen on the Green River." On June 22, 1939, a French party stopped at the bridge for supplies on its way to the Colorado. A number of local persons from both Jensen and Vernal have made the trip through the scenic canyons by boat. Jens Jensen has made the trip several times.

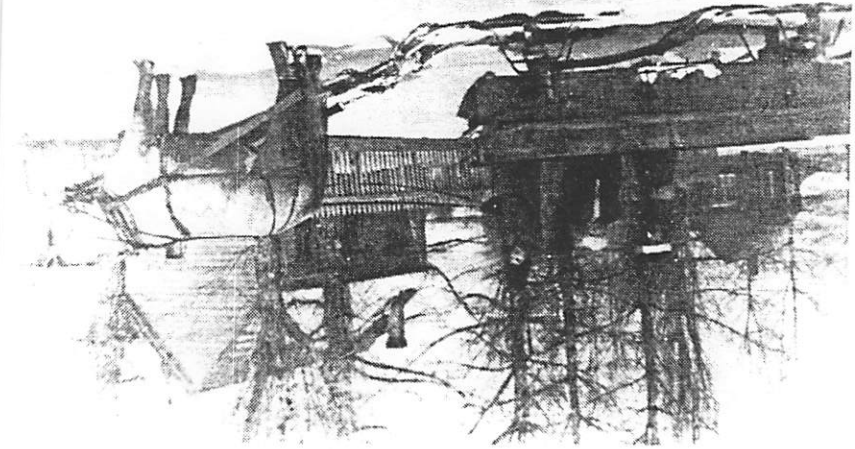


Boys

"Maggie"

Mary Elizabeth

William



Marshall School

Mary Isabel, Effie + Annie

Effie

Henry Larkin Alameda Steigher, born